

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
March 6, 2003

BUDGET REPAIR BILL SIGNED

On February 27 Governor Doyle signed into law the budget repair bill for fiscal year 2002-2003 (2003 Wisconsin Act 1), reducing funds for investigation and clean up of contaminated sites, including brownfields redevelopment. The new law includes a \$1 million reduction in Wisconsin's Environmental Repair appropriation. DNR uses this appropriation to contract for emergency spill response and for investigation and clean up at other contaminated sites where a responsible party (RP) is unknown, unable or unwilling to proceed. RR staff recommend contaminated sites for action under this appropriation based on environmental and health concerns, community priorities, and lack of alternative funding. We have determined that some existing contracts for investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites will need to be modified. This is being discussed with contractors, who will be notified when final decisions are made. Other planned contracts will not proceed. We believe that we have adequate funds for response to environmental emergencies and spills.

The budget repair law also:

- eliminates all funding (\$1million) for DNR's Green Space and Public Facilities grants and moves this money into the state's general fund; as a result, we are unable to fund any of the Green Space grant applications received in January;
- eliminates the remaining \$125,000 in Sustainable Urban Development Zone (SUDZ) funding, so we will not review letters of intent received from communities interested in this program; and
- eliminates all competitive funding (\$6.25 million) for brownfield grants administered by the Department of Commerce.

The budget repair law does not make any reductions to funding for the Brownfields Site Assessment Grant (SAG) program. DNR has signed and mailed all grant agreements for successful SAG applicants. The list of 4th round SAG recipients is on our web site at -

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm#round4>

You can view the budget repair bill on-line at this link -

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/03Act1.pdf>

Governor Doyle's budget proposal for fiscal years 2003-2005 includes additional funding for brownfields grants and calls for the reorganization and consolidation of all State of Wisconsin brownfields grants.

INSURANCE FEES FOR VPLE SITES USING NATURAL ATTENUATION UNCHANGED

The Remediation and Redevelopment program has extended its insurance policy through 2003 for Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) sites using natural attenuation. The VPLE process allows eligible parties that conduct an environmental investigation and cleanup of a property to receive a Certificate of Completion (COC) which limits future environmental liability. If a voluntary party is relying on natural attenuation to restore groundwater quality, and wants to receive a COC prior to achieving compliance with the enforcement standards, the RP is required to pay an environmental insurance fee. Since the state has been able to extend our existing insurance policy, the premiums have not increased - fees will be the same in 2003 as they were in 2002. The current fee schedule is effective from March 5, 2003 until March 5, 2004. This fee schedule and more information about this program can be found in Fact Sheet 13 , "Insurance for Voluntary Party

Liability Exemption Sites Using Natural Attenuation: Information and Fee Schedule" (RR-661), available on the web at:
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR661.pdf>
Questions about this program should be directed to Michael Prager at Michael.Prager@dnr.state.wi.us or at (608) 261-4927.

BUSINESS FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Nominations are open until March 14, 2003 for the 14th annual Business Friends of the Environment awards. Three awards for environmental leadership are available in each of three areas: Pollution Prevention, Use of Innovative Technology, and Environmental Stewardship. An independent panel of judges will select the winners. For more information, please see this web page:
<http://www.wmc.org/MediaOutlet/Awards/display.cfm?ID=220>

CONSULTANT LIST REVIEW

It's time again for our quarterly update of our list of consultants available to do environmental investigation and cleanup. This simple "name, address & phone number" list of consultants is intended to help responsible parties locate consultants in different parts of Wisconsin. This list is not an endorsement or certification of consultants. Publication RR-024 is on our web at
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR024.pdf>
Consultants may contact Megan Clemens at Megan.Clemens@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-261-4391 to add or amend an entry for your environmental consulting business.

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